

Studies on the Helminth Fauna and the Affection with *Trichinella* Species of the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in the Federal State Brandenburg

Summary

Internal organs of 86 raccoon dogs originating from the northeastern districts of the Federal State Brandenburg were subjected to a complete helminthological dissection. In addition, muscle samples of 360 raccoon dogs and 123 red foxes were examined for *Trichinella* larvae. Furthermore, 220 serum samples from raccoon dogs were tested in an indirect ELISA for the presence of *Trichinella* antibodies. All raccoon dogs were infested with parasites. Altogether three trematodes (*Isthmiophora melis*, *Alaria alata*, *Metorchis bilis*), three cestodes (*Mesocestoides* sp., *Taenia polyacantha*, *Echinococcus multilocularis*) and seven nematode species (*Uncinaria stenocephala*, *Crenosoma vulpis*, *Molineus patens*, *Toxocara canis*, *Capillaria plica*, *C. aerophila*, *Trichinella spiralis*) could be identified. Thereby, the raccoon dog has a comparable helminth spectrum as well known for red foxes. Differences in the frequency of the occurrence of helminthes in both hosts can be explained by different food preferences.

The direct risk of health impairment for humans due to *E. multilocularis* infected raccoon dogs appears to be low in the area under investigation. In contrast to the risk to obtain “larva migrans” infections caused by ascaridae or ancylostomatidae seems to be higher.